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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS CIVILIAN POLICE MISSION IN HAITI

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1212 (1998) of 25 November 1998, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) until 30 November 1999 in order to continue to assist the Government of Haiti by supporting and contributing to the professionalization of the Haitian National Police, ... including mentoring Haitian national police field performance and strengthening the capability of the central directorate of the police force to manage aid provided to it from bilateral and multilateral sources. In that resolution, the Council requested me to report on the implementation of the resolution every three months from the date of its adoption until the expiration of the mandate of MIPONUH.

2. The present report covers the activities of MIPONUH and developments in the mission area since my report of 19 May 1999 (S/1999/579). As requested in paragraph 11 of resolution 1212 (1998), this report includes further comments on a viable transition to other forms of international assistance beyond those made in previous reports, for the consideration of the Council. These recommendations are based on the continuing consultations of my Representative in Haiti and the head of MIPONUH, Julian Harston, with the group of the Friends of the Secretary-General for Haiti, namely, Argentina, Canada, Chile, France, the United States of America and Venezuela, and with the Haitian authorities, including the Haitian National Police (HNP).

II. POLITICAL SITUATION

3. The period under review was marked by continuing negotiations, interrupted by repeated discord, and slow progress between the political parties and the Government of Haiti on how to continue to provide essential Government services, such as police and customs services, and how to further the cause of democracy through the organization of legislative and municipal elections. The process was a difficult one mainly because of the weaknesses of key Government institutions. The balance of powers foreseen in the Constitution of 1987 was disrupted by the non-functioning Parliament which had been declared invalid by

President René Préval on 11 January 1999. Nothing has been done to meet the provisions of the agreement of 6 March 1999 between President Préval and the so-called Espace de concertation, composed of a coalition of five opposition groups – Comité national du Congrès des mouvements démocratiques (KONAKOM), Komiti Inite Demokratik (KID), Génération 2004, Parti nationaliste progressiste révolutionnaire haïtien (PANPRA) and Ayiti Kapab – which called for a meeting of the President of the Republic, the President of the Senate and the President of the Supreme Court to discuss this matter and how to alleviate the loss of power of the legislators (see S/1999/579, paras. 3-6).

4. On 24 May 1999, Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis presented his Government Action Plan, outlining in detail the priorities and resource allocations for each of the 15 Government ministries. The plan was well received in Haiti by some political parties.

5. During the period under review, a few highly visible developments and incidents served to heighten the perception of an increase in public insecurity. On 28 May 1999, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Olivier Nadal, led a well-attended rally against anarchy and insecurity at the Champs de Mars in Port-au-Prince. The demonstration was sponsored by some 40 business groups, trade unions and civic groups. It was also supported by both right wing and mainstream political parties, including the Espace de concertation and the Organisation du peuple en lutte (OPL). The rally, however, was marred by violence when counter-demonstrators attacked participants; it was then closed down by the police for security reasons. Public opinion was divided on the aborted demonstration. Critics of the Government and the police, among them the coordinator of OPL, Gérard Pierre-Charles, and the leader of the Mobilisation pour le développement national (MDN), Hubert de Ronceray, insisted that the police had failed an important test, namely protecting bonafide advocates of social peace and understanding. The spokesman for Lafanmi Lavalas, Yvon Neptune, responded that the demonstrators and, more importantly, their organizers had in fact a predominantly political agenda that was directed against the Government and had gathered under the guise of a generally appealing pro-security theme, which they were exploiting for partisan purposes. There were suggestions made on behalf of Lafanmi Lavalas that the confrontation at the demonstration had been deliberate.

6. The murders at Carrefour-Feuilles on 28 May 1999 provided further cause for concern about the security situation in Haiti, as well as the functioning of the police and the administration of justice. On that day – the same day as the demonstrations – officers of the Haitian National Police, under the command of Port-au-Prince commissaire Coles Rameau, allegedly killed 11 detainees in Carrefour-Feuilles, a neighbourhood south of the city centre. Prime Minister Alexis quickly called for a full-scale inquiry into the killings. The principal suspect, Coles Rameau, who had fled the country, was apprehended in Santo Domingo, extradited to Haiti and subsequently detained in Port-au-Prince.

7. In response to claims from families of the victims that the Government was doing too little too late, a special commission was established to investigate the murders, but the Government's actions failed to dispel the public's widespread concern about the official handling of the incident. The delay in the inquiry and in the formal interrogation of the major suspects has now,

unfortunately, devalued the creditable urgency with which initial action was taken.

8. During the period under review, there were street demonstrations, some of them violent and often marked by vandalism. In July, workers at the capital's port went on strike in protest against the Government's plan to privatize the port. They also demanded the dismissal of the Director-General of the National Port Authority because of alleged mismanagement. The strike, which lasted for three days, ended after President Préval and Prime Minister Alexis visited the port. Subsequently, on 5 and 6 August, there were poorly-attended demonstrations by some "popular organizations" in Port-au-Prince demanding the removal of the Canadian, French and United States Ambassadors to Haiti, as well as that of some Haitian Government officials.

9. An incident involving a vehicle of the United States Support Group further increased the perception of a deterioration in public security. On 4 June 1999, American soldiers abandoned a jeep which had suffered mechanical problems in Port-au-Prince. The vehicle was subsequently set alight by demonstrators chanting anti-American slogans.

10. During the past months, the newly established Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) has worked hard to organize the long-delayed local and legislative elections. It conducted in-depth consultations with the Government, civil society and political parties, with the notable exception of OPL and Lafanmi Lavalas, both of which refused invitations to meet with CEP.

11. On 11 June, the Council announced that it had drafted an electoral text to replace the Electoral Law of 1995. The initial text proposed by CEP was noteworthy insofar as it provided for the election of 19 rather than 17 Senators, which implied that CEP had chosen to ignore the controversial election results of April 1997, from which two Lafanmi Lavalas candidates, Yvon Feuillé and Fourel Célestin, had emerged as Senators-elect according to the previous CEP. Playing down the political significance of this development, a CEP spokesperson explained that the Council had not actually annulled the April 1997 elections, but had simply taken into account the fact that Messrs. Feuillé and Célestin had never been inducted into the Senate and that therefore their seats were vacant.

12. The Council's initial draft of the electoral law elicited favourable comments from a large number of political parties, including OPL and the member parties of the Espace de concertation. However, Lafanmi Lavalas was critical of the draft because it did not endorse the April 1997 election results. It declared that it would accordingly challenge CEP in court. Some supporters of Lafanmi Lavalas threatened large-scale unrest in the streets unless the draft were changed.

13. President Préval expressed numerous reservations about the text and the time taken by the Council to produce it. He called for a change to its article 130, which specified the number of Senate seats to be contested in the elections.

14. On 16 July, President Préval and Prime Minister Alexis, on behalf of the Government, signed an electoral law, which CEP had modified to reflect the President's concerns, and which now calls upon CEP to determine the number of vacant seats in the Senate. The law was promulgated in the Government publication Le Moniteur of 22 July 1999 without the signatures of the President and the Prime Minister. Some of the political classes would have preferred the law to be called a "pact" since it had not received parliamentary approval. OPL, despite initial opposition to the conduct of the elections, has recently indicated that it will participate in the elections. Lafanmi Lavalas has also agreed to participate in the elections.

15. It appears that the first round of elections may be held by mid-December 1999, but CEP has been reluctant to issue a formal calendar with official dates for the elections. According to a preliminary budget drawn up by CEP in collaboration with major donors, the Council requires an election budget of some US$ 18 million. The Government of Haiti has guaranteed half of that amount. The budget does not include civic education, electoral observation, technical assistance and security costs, but does include costs for voter registration cards. Donor countries have pledged to assist CEP. The United States of America and the European Union are expected to be the two largest donors. Most of the contributors to the Trust Fund for electoral assistance to Haiti have agreed to the use of the balance of their contributions to provide technical assistance to CEP for the upcoming elections. There have also been pledges of additional bilateral support for other programmes related to the electoral process, such as voter education and national observers.

16. During this entire process, my Representative and the Ambassadors of the Friends of Haiti, as well as other leading bilateral and multilateral parties, closely coordinated their efforts to assist CEP and the Government of Haiti. A further visit to Haiti by former President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica also took place under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

III. DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CIVILIAN POLICE MISSION IN HAITI

17. As will be recalled, the Security Council mandated at the outset of the Mission that it should be composed of up to 300 civilian police officers, including a 90-strong special police unit deployed along with the necessary support personnel. On 20 August 1999, the civilian police element of MIPONUH comprised 279 officers from 10 countries (see annex). In accordance with its mandate, MIPONUH has continued to deploy its civilian police component throughout Haiti's nine départements, while the special police unit has remained deployed in Port-au-Prince. The special police unit has continued to provide security for Mission personnel and property on a 24-hour basis.

18. Training remains an essential element of the Mission's contribution to the professionalization of the Haitian National Police. Since June 1999, as agreed with the HNP training department (Direction des écoles et de la formation), the HNP departmental directors have been entrusted with the task of carrying out police training at the departmental level. Monthly training modules are established by MIPONUH, approved by the training department and taught by HNP

instructors at the commissariats in the capitals of the départements. Civilian police officers have remained at their side, but primarily as technical advisors, not as teachers. In this manner, approximately 300 police officers receive formal instruction in a wide range of subjects relevant to police work every week. The present training procedures have been designed to facilitate the transition to the post-MIPONUH era.

19. In addition, civilian police officers continue to provide technical assistance to HNP by mentoring their Haitian police counterparts during their daily activities (accompagnement). These activities include criminal investigation, crowd control, community policing, maintenance of police registers, logistics, personnel management and report writing. Civilian police officers are also deployed in the offices of the Director-General and the Inspector-General to assist with the administrative efficiency of the two offices.

20. The Director-General of the Haitian National Police has expressed concern about security in the upcoming electoral period, and has requested MIPONUH to assist in preparing the HNP local crowd-control units (Unités de maintien de l'ordre) for possible insecurity during that time. These preparations will be carried out in August and September by senior HNP personnel under the guidance of civilian police officers.

21. The Mission continues to coordinate its technical assistance with the programmes of UNDP and with bilateral donors such as the Canadian International Development Agency-Royal Canadian Mounted Police (CIDA-RCMP), the French bilateral programme and the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme (ICITAP) of the United States of America. MIPONUH also works closely with the joint United Nations-Organization of American States (OAS) International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) to help ensure that HNP officers have the necessary understanding of human rights issues.

22. As part of the transition to a post-MIPONUH police environment and in order to enable the Haitian National Police to pursue its professionalization and reinforce its institutional structure without interruption, efforts are currently under way to install technical advisors as counterparts to key HNP officers before the expiration of the Mission's mandate. The experience of previous mandate periods has shown that such advisors are most effective when they work with counterparts at higher decision-making levels. It is planned that approximately 60 such advisors will be posted before the end of the year. A draft schedule by the MIPONUH civilian police Commissioner proposing the deployment of 32 United Nations advisors, 17 CIDA advisors, 12 ICITAP advisors and one advisor from the French bilateral programme was reviewed by donor representatives during a coordination meeting on 13 July and is currently being considered by the Director-General of HNP and other participants in police training in Haiti. Thirty-four of these advisors would be working at HNP headquarters (Direction générale) and the remaining 28 with the departmental directors in Port-au-Prince and the provinces.

IV. HAITIAN NATIONAL POLICE

23. Since April 1999, the Haitian National Police has been the target of criticism from a number of political actors. Some "popular organizations", in particular those close to Lafanmi Lavalas, have called for the resignation of high-ranking officials of the security apparatus - the Secretary of State for Public Security and the Director-General and Inspector-General of HNP. Numerous demonstrations, involving barricades across Port-au-Prince streets and burning tyres, have dramatized these calls for changes in the police hierarchy.

24. During the reporting period two key events contributed to the perception that public security had deteriorated, namely, the Carrefour-Feuilles killings and the aborted demonstration against anarchy and insecurity on 28 May 1999 (see paras. 5-7 above). The situation did not deteriorate further during the second half of the reporting period, however. Following the Carrefour-Feuilles massacre and the action of the Haitian National Police at the demonstration, HNP has reviewed its procedures. As a result, it has reduced policing operations that could be perceived as aggressive, so as to avoid similar incidents in the future. Nonetheless, the national crowd-control units (Compagnies d'intervention et de maintien de l'ordre) have successfully intervened on a number of occasions when their involvement appeared necessary. HNP continues meeting with local authorities and popular organizations in order to strengthen community policing.

25. In addition to accusations of involvement in extrajudicial killings and reports of ill-treatment during arrests and interrogations, HNP continued to address the involvement of some police officers in drug trafficking. While a number of police officers implicated in such illicit activities have been arrested, detained and are awaiting trial, HNP is aware of the fact that it must further reinforce its capacity to fight illegal drugs, especially along Haiti's southern coastline, and police officer complicity. The problems created by allegations of unprofessional police conduct continue to be taken very seriously by Haitian Government authorities and other concerned parties. The number of HNP officers currently stands at 6,100.

26. MIPONUH was compelled to react swiftly to what appeared to have been some of the worst human rights abuses by HNP officers since the restoration of constitutional order and the inception of HNP in 1995. My Representative publicly expressed his condemnation of the acts perpetrated at Carrefour-Feuilles, allegedly by police officers. He called on HNP to suspend immediately any officer suspected of involvement in the affair. The authorities did react quickly and arrested four police officers, one of them in cooperation with the police forces of the Dominican Republic. Another police officer suspected of involvement has recently been detained. Given the seriousness of the situation, the Government arranged for an official funeral for the victims of Carrefour-Feuilles and for the payment of indemnities to their families. In addition, the Ministry of Justice has established a special commission composed of three judges to further investigate this crime.

27. A new director of the police judiciaire has recently been appointed by the Director-General of HNP. He has undertaken to continue reforms in the areas of administration, operations and training.

28. The senior management of HNP have been working with the Mission, UNDP and bilateral donors to develop a post-MIPONUH technical assistance programme. Similarly, the HNP management have developed a concrete proposal for their needs to ensure security during the electoral process.

V. JUSTICE SYSTEM

29. Developments in the justice system were uneven during the period under review. Overall, while there have been a few positive developments, the judicial system continues to be plagued by serious deficiencies which undermine individual rights, due process and the rule of law (see S/1999/181, para. 24). The absence of significant judicial reform remains an obstacle to institutional development in Haiti.

30. On 21 May, a Court for Minors was inaugurated in Port-au-Prince. This constitutes an important element in judicial institution building. In June, 117 juges de paix from 80 tribunaux de paix graduated from the Ecole de la magistrature after completing six weeks of training to improve their professional competence.

31. On 29 June, in commemoration of the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the penal administration (Direction de l'administration pénitentiaire), the Director of Prison Administration held "open days" at the National Penitentiary and Fort National prisons in Port-au-Prince during which journalists were invited to inspect prison conditions. While there has been a marked improvement in conditions at the National Penitentiary, problems of overcrowding and poor infrastructure persist in other prisons. On 23 July, there was a prison riot in Les Cayes which was partly caused by overcrowding.

32. It is of particular concern that a considerable number of detainees continue to be held in prolonged pre-trial detention in violation of international treaties ratified by Haiti which specify that detainees shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time, or should be released. The Government Prosecutor is currently blocking the release of a group of individuals, nine of whom have been held in detention for over 1,000 days, by not implementing the judicial release orders, including writs of habeas corpus.

33. After some delay, a special commission of three judges was established by the Minister of Justice, Camille Leblanc, to investigate the Carrefour-Feuilles killings. The principal suspects have been brought before the special commission for interrogation. The public is concerned and expects concrete results, and it is hoped that no further delays will be experienced in the completion of the judicial inquiry.

34. In a drug-related matter, a cocaine trafficking suspect en route between the Jacmel prison and the police station in Jacmel was freed by a group of armed individuals on 25 July. The case is currently under investigation and the Ministry of Justice has devoted considerable resources to it.

35. The preparations for the trial of the alleged perpetrators of the 1994 massacre in the Gonaïves neighbourhood of Raboteau made some progress. In June,

the Ministry of Justice held a three-day reconstruction of the events (reconstitution des faits) at the site of the massacre.

36. The prison administration continues to receive technical assistance support from UNDP. Internal rules and regulations, prepared with the assistance of UNDP, have been published, and their adoption should lead to an improved functioning of the prison administration. Without additional donor support, however, UNDP will face increasing difficulty in continuing its support to the prison sector. Continued penal reform remains necessary for Haiti to establish an effective judicial system.

37. In June, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, Radhika Coomarswamy, visited Haiti at the invitation of the Minister of Justice, Camille Leblanc, to gather information on the subject.

38. In my letter dated 6 August 1999 to the President of the General Assembly (A/54/211), it was noted that, owing to recent financial constraints, OAS had withdrawn almost all of its personnel from MICIVIH as from 1 July 1999. This led to the closure of MICIVIH offices in Port-de-Paix, Fort-Liberté, Hinche, Jacmel and Jérémie and a related curtailment of human rights monitoring operations in those locations. The United Nations and OAS have however agreed to continue their cooperation in MICIVIH as a joint mission, for which MIPONUH provides administrative and logistical support.

39. The office of the Ombudsman has indicated that, to the extent permitted by its budgetary and human resources, it will strive to carry out some of the services previously provided by MICIVIH. There is a continuing need for Member States to support financially the work of this office.

VI. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

40. As a result of the recommendations of the electoral assessment mission undertaken in April 1999 by the United Nations (see S/1999/579, para. 9), UNDP launched, in June 1999, a technical assistance project to assist the Provisional Electoral Council in organizing the planned local and legislative elections. At the request of CEP, UNDP is also facilitating technical coordination among the various international partners involved, including through the organization of weekly coordination meetings. UNDP regularly provides all the necessary technical information on the electoral process to my Representative, who in turn informs the Ambassadors of the Friends of Haiti and other interested donors.

41. UNDP has produced a project description for technical assistance to CEP for the upcoming elections. Implementation of this project is already under way. As noted in paragraph 15 above, most of the donors to the Trust Fund for electoral assistance to Haiti have already given their agreement to the use of the balance of their past contributions for such technical assistance. The UNDP technical assistance team to CEP is currently composed of two senior experts and one United Nations Volunteer. An additional six Volunteers are working on electoral issues in the country, and five more could be recruited as the electoral process advances. These Volunteers would be deployed in the departmental electoral offices. UNDP technical assistance is closely

coordinated with assistance provided by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and other bilateral donors.

42. The United Nations system has continued to progress, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, towards the preparation of a common country assessment, which is a key step in the Secretary-General's reform programme for the creation of a United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The goals, methodology and process of the common country assessment have been further defined during two high-level meetings between Prime Minister Alexis and the Resident Coordinator. The Government will be fully involved in the formulation of the assessment, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

43. On 20 and 21 May 1999, an inter-agency meeting, held at Barahona, Dominican Republic, was attended by the United Nations country teams from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. That meeting brought together representatives of United Nations agencies and missions working in the two neighbouring countries, including UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNAIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as MIPONUH. The representatives discussed operational arrangements for a more coordinated intervention on both sides of the border. During the meeting, a particular focus was given to migration and human rights issues. A series of joint initiatives and activities were defined and are now being followed up. The two UNDP Resident Coordinators have pledged to organize a second meeting in Haiti before the end of the year.

44. Other noteworthy activities of the United Nations system during the reporting period were the launching by UNDP of its four preparatory projects in the areas of governance, environment, employment and disaster prevention and management; the signing of an important agreement between the Government, UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund for a local governance and eco-development programme in the north-eastern <u>département</u>; the visit to Haiti, at the invitation of UNDP, of experts from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to include data and information on Haiti in the regional follow-up report of the World Summit for Social Development; the signing of an important agreement for a health and nutrition project between WFP and the Haitian Ministry of Health; the final preparation work on two other WFP projects in the areas of literacy and family food production; the launching by FAO of a major sustainable agriculture and soil and water conservation project; the follow-up by UNICEF of the Lima IV Accord on the reviewed goals of the World Summit for Children for the Americas and the launching of the 1999 UNICEF report on the progress of nations; the finalization by UNESCO and IOM of a study on vocational training needs in the north-eastern <u>département</u>; the organization by UNESCO of working meetings between Haitian and Dominican academics in the framework of the preparation of a planned joint Haiti-Dominican Republic colloquium on the abolition of slavery; continued support by UNFPA for the preparation of the fourth population census; and the organization by IOM and the

National Office for Migration, with support from UNDP and UNFPA, of a seminar on migration and migration policy.

45. On 12 July, the UNDP 1998 Human Development Report was publicly presented during a joint conference of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Planning and External Cooperation and the UNDP Resident Representative. The presentation was followed by public information events.

VII. POSSIBLE SUPPORT TO HAITI AFTER THE UNITED NATIONS CIVILIAN POLICE MISSION

46. In my last report on MIPONUH (S/1999/579), some recommendations were presented on a possible transition to other forms of international assistance to the Haitian National Police following the expiration of the Mission's mandate. In general terms, the views expressed in that report and the plan of action outlined in paragraph 39 remain valid. The Government of Haiti itself must prepare to assume full responsibility for the further strengthening and effective functioning of the Haitian National Police. To this end, the police authorities continue to develop a two-year technical assistance programme designed to provide the service with the expertise to carry out training and institution-building and to ensure the necessary continuity in the efforts of MIPONUH. The programme foresees the recruitment of international police advisors to work throughout Haiti with HNP. To further the preparation of the programme, regular meetings have been held by interested parties, including MIPONUH, UNDP, ICITAP (USA), CIDA (Canada) and the French bilateral programme. With this preparation and coordination, the Haitian National Police should be prepared and able to take advantage of the aid which, it is hoped, will continue to be offered by multilateral and bilateral donors.

47. In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 1999, another possible scenario, which would go beyond the provision of police advisors by the above-mentioned donors, is currently under consideration. Taking into account the special challenges which continue to face Haiti, the Economic and Social Council recommends to the General Assembly to consider devising a United Nations special training and technical assistance programme for HNP. Subject to the availability of resources, police advisers would continue to assist the Government of Haiti with the training and professionalization of the Haitian National Police. Should the General Assembly decide to establish a new mission, it could also incorporate the current UNDP technical advisors.

48. In paragraph 8 of its resolution, the Economic and Social Council also recommends to the General Assembly to review all aspects of the mandate and operations of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti in the light of the situation in the country and to consider renewing the mandate of the United Nations component of the Mission. It would appear appropriate at this juncture to review the extent to which some of the functions currently exercised by the two existing missions in Haiti - MIPONUH and MICIVIH - could be combined in one integrated mission. Again subject to the availability of resources, a new United Nations mission could thus discharge responsibilities in the areas of human rights monitoring and institution-building to provide support to both the

justice sector and the Haitian National Police. The new mission would encourage the Haitian authorities to pursue the reform and strengthening of Haiti's system of justice, including its penal institutions; verify the observance of human rights standards and support the promotion and protection of human rights; and assist with the development and strengthening of the institutions of democratic governance, including civil society.

49. The Economic and Social Council also recommends the continued presence in Haiti of an office of a Representative of the Secretary-General to continue his good offices in the country and to manage any new civilian mission mandated by the United Nations. Following the expiration of the mandate of MIPONUH, such an office could help the Government of Haiti with the transition from the Security Council-mandated assistance of the last five years to a new model of police development in the context of the continuing consolidation of democracy. In addition, the office would manage any new United Nations civilian mission, facilitate continuing dialogue among key actors in Haiti and the international community, support the democratization process, help to mobilize international political and financial support for Haiti and provide the political framework and focal point for integrating and coordinating the activities of the international community. The present excellent arrangement whereby the UNDP Resident Coordinator is the deputy to my Representative should be continued.

50. My Representative in Haiti has undertaken to ensure that great care will be taken during the next three months so that the aspirations of the Government of Haiti and the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council are taken into account when implementing any possible decision of the General Assembly concerning the transition from a peacekeeping mission to a post-peacekeeping presence, regardless of the form such a presence might take. In particular, he remains involved with the Haitian authorities and interested parties in looking into the modalities of any post-MIPONUH structure. In order to ensure continuity, immediate and effective action would need to be taken by interested Member States and the Government of Haiti to put the necessary measures in place following any General Assembly resolution to establish an appropriate follow-on structure to MIPONUH.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS

51. The Haitian authorities have identified some of the short-term needs of Haiti and the means of meeting those needs in a governmental Plan of Action. The Government has also entered into a dialogue with its international partners to work on long-term plans for the development of Haiti. It is now essential that all of the country's political actors commit themselves to ensuring that the forthcoming electoral process will lead to a reinforcement of Haiti's institutions, which will form the basis for its long-term sustainable development. It is the overriding responsibility of Haiti's political leaders, past and present, to involve themselves in a constructive dialogue and to become real partners in their country's future.

52. Although CEP has made progress towards the holding of local and legislative elections, it unfortunately continues to face organizational and financial problems in meeting the exacting timetable which would allow the elections to be

held by the end of 1999. I hope that bilateral donors will find it possible to assist CEP financially as soon as feasible so as to enable this important process to move forward. The ability of the United Nations to respond, through UNDP, to the needs of CEP and to provide it with the technical assistance it requires depends on Member States making the necessary funds available.

53. Although there is some risk that existing difficulties may prevent the holding of both rounds of the elections before the end of the year, the aspiration of CEP to have a new legislature in place by 10 January 2000 should be supported. It now appears certain that most of the principal parties will participate in the elections. This is a welcome development and CEP deserves credit for its work. It must use all of the resources at its disposal, in particular the expertise provided by the UNDP consultants, to ensure that the elections will be free, fair and transparent.

54. The Haitian National Police has designed a security plan in preparation for the elections because of concern about a possible increase in security problems during that critical period. As earlier reported, the main areas of concern are communications, logistics, infrastructure, computers and matériel (see S/1999/579, para. 37). Member States have begun to respond positively to the Government's request for assistance with the realization of the HNP security plan either bilaterally or through the authorized use through UNDP of remaining contributions in the United Nations trust fund to assist in the creation of an adequate police force in Haiti. The particularly generous contribution of the Government of Japan for the realization of the security plan is noteworthy, and contributions have also been received from other Member States.

55. The security situation in Haiti remains a matter of concern. In order to avoid a further deterioration in the months leading to the elections, a coordinated effort by the Government, the police service and Haiti's political and civil leaders will be required. Security is the responsibility of all Haitians and the Haitian National Police can operate effectively only if it has the full support of the Government and that of the population at large. The Government's programme of action, which seeks to address some of the more immediate causes of social tension, is a worthy programme and Member States should consider contributing to its realization. However, there is continuing concern in some quarters that withdrawing MIPONUH during the election period might undermine security at a particularly sensitive stage.

56. The support of the Government of Haiti for the recent Economic and Social Council resolution and its close involvement in the related preparatory work were vital to its adoption. On this basis, I am confident that an appropriate mechanism will be found to meet the aspirations of the Government of Haiti as well as the desire of the international community to elaborate a long-term, coordinated and well-managed plan for Haiti's sustainable social, economic and institutional development.

57. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the valuable contribution made by the Friends of Haiti to the Mission and, in particular, the important assistance that the bilateral programmes of Canada, France and the United States of America have provided to the Haitian National Police. Further, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Governments of France, Japan,

Luxembourg, Norway, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, which have agreed to the use of the balance of their contributions to United Nations trust funds for Haiti to finance activities related to the upcoming electoral period, including helping HNP to address security concerns.

58. In conclusion, I would like to commend my Representative and head of MIPONUH, Julian Harston, and the Police Commissioner, as well as the international and local staff under their command, for their continued efforts in support of United Nations activities in Haiti.

Annex

Composition of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti as at 20 August 1999

Country	Special Police Unit	Civilian police
Argentina	133	4
Benin		11
Canada		24
France		36
Mali		19
Niger		5
Senegal		8
Togo		7
Tunisia		3
United States of America		29
Subtotal	133	146
Total	279	

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